

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM SENATOR PERCY

APPROVED BY S/S-O: L. MATTESON

NEA: TRPICKERING

NEA: MR. ATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MAS, JO, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR KING HUSSEIN FROM SENATOR PERCY
FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM SENATOR PERCY

QUOTE: YOUR MAJESTY: I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH CLOSE INTEREST
AND SUPPORT THE EFFORTS TO WORK OUT THE SALE OF AIR DEFENSE
EQUIPMENT TO JORDAN. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU OF MY CONTINUING
INTEREST AND BACKING FOR WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO, AND
STAND FOR, AS A STRONG MODERATING INFLUENCE COMMITTED
TO A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

I WANT THEREFORE, TO GIVE YOU MY PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS
OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE CONGRESS. YOU HAVE AN
IMPORTANT NUMBER OF DEDICATED SUPPORTERS. UNFORTUNATELY
THE CURRENT QUESTION OF JORDANS' AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS HAS
BECOME CAUGHT UP IN OTHER ISSUES: THE CONGRESS' DETERMI-
NATION TO OVERSEE ALL SIGNIFICANT ARMS SALES AND THE
GROWING U.S. ARMS DELIVERIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST. I
REALIZE IT IS NOT FAIR TO SUBJECT JORDAN TO SPECIAL
SCRUTINY, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THESE ISSUES HAVE
PLAYED A LARGE ROLE IN EVOLVING THE PRESENT COMPROMISE.

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YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT I CONSIDER THE COMPROMISE FAIR

AND THAT IT DOES NOT PREJUDICE GOING AHEAD WITH THE FULL ORDER FOR JORDAN. I BELIEVE IT IS THE BEST COMPROMISE

WE CAN GET AND, WITHOUT IT, THE SALE FACES DEFEAT IN CONGRESS DESPITE MANY OF OUR BEST EFFORTS. I RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THE COMPROMISE MOST CAREFULLY IN THIS LIGHT.

ONE OTHER ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN TO US IS ALSO AFFECTED BY WHAT STEPS WE CAN WORK OUT ON YOUR AIR DEFENSE PURCHASE. FOR A LONG TIME I HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT AN ESCALATORY INCREASE IN IMMEDIATE DELIVERIES OF ARMS TO ISRAEL ON THE ORDER OF 2.59 BILLION DOLLARS. I TOLD THE ISRAELI LEADERS THEY WOULD NOT RECEIVE ANY SUCH AMOUNT. BUT IF CONGRESS WERE BY SOME MIRACLE TO APPROVE IMMEDIATELY FULL DELIVERY TO JORDAN WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE REVIEW, I AM CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD SERVE AS A POWERFUL EXCUSE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PRESSING US TO SUPPLY THE FULL ISRAELI REQUEST AND THIS WOULD FURTHER DESTABILIZE THE SITUATION AND UNDERSTANDABLY DISTURB EGYPT AND SYRIA. I HOPE, TOO, YOU WILL CONSIDER THIS FACTOR IN ANY DECISION YOU MAKE.

I VERY MUCH HOPE YOU CAN FIND IT POSSIBLE, TO ACCEPT THE COMPROMISE WHICH HAS BEEN WORKED OUT AND URGE YOU TO DO SO. YOU WILL HAVE STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT PHASE AND I AM ASSURED THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WILL GO ALL-OUT TO SEE THAT YOU ULTIMATELY HAVE DELIVERY OF YOUR FULL AIR DEFENSE PROGRAM.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS FROM LORAIN AND ME TO YOU, HER MAJESTY AND PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. RIFAI.

SIGNED CHUCK PERCY. KISSINGER

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